

LMS Band Handbook

2019-2020 School Year

Dear LMS Band Students and Parents,

Welcome to a new and exciting year of music at Liberty Middle School. The Liberty Band Program consists of four large ensembles: the Beginner Band, the Concert Band, the Symphonic Band, and the Jazz Band (Spring only). Our bands perform at a variety of civic and scholastic events and compete at district, state and national competitions. Our main goal at Liberty is to provide the band students with meaningful and challenging instruction that will lead to a fun, exciting and rewarding musical experience.

All performing ensembles will have at least three concerts during the school year: one in the winter before the holiday break, our Dinner Concert in the early Spring, and a final concert in May before the end of the school year. These dates and venues will be available as soon as possible. The LMS Pep Band, made up of all students with at least one year of playing experience, will perform at three LMS football games during the Fall. This is a fun opportunity to play some non-traditional band music and to give the students a preview of what band is like at the high school level. The Concert Band and the Symphonic Band will also perform at our state Music Performance Assessment in March. As in years past, students will have the opportunity to participate in Solo and Ensemble and District and All State auditions. We will have more information about the dates, places and the requirements of these festivals as they become available.

This Spring, the Concert and Symphonic Bands will travel to Orlando, FL for competition and exhibition performances. More information regarding the trip will be available soon.

We are always interested in meeting the parents of our students. The LMS Band Boosters is a parent organization that supports the band by providing fund raising, chaperoning, and logistical assistance. The Boosters meet once each 9-weeks in the LMS Band Room. Parents of students in all ensembles are encouraged to attend. The dates for these meetings are published on the yearly event calendar. If you would like a private meeting or conference, please call or e-mail and make an appointment.

Again, welcome to the Liberty Middle School Band! We are looking forward to meeting everyone and making great music together.

Musically Yours,

Gwen Rakoff (Mrs. R)
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Kayla Sims
Assistant Band Director
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The Ensembles

Beginner Band

The Beginning Band is composed of students who have no previous experience in band. The beginning band will have three concert performances this year. There are three beginner band classes: woodwind class, brass class, and percussion class. The beginning percussion students will be combined with the Beginner Brass class in the Spring.

Concert Band

The Concert Band is composed of 7th and 8th grade students who have been playing their instrument for at least one year. The Concert Band will have at least four performances this year. Students in this band are invited to go on our annual Spring Trip.

Symphonic Band

The Symphonic Band is composed of mainly 8th grade students; membership is determined by audition only. The Symphonic Band will have at least four performances this year. Students in this band are invited to go on our annual Spring Trip.

Percussion Ensemble

Percussion ensemble will be made up of percussionists from the Concert and Symphonic Bands. This group will have opportunities to perform on Concerts and at Solo and Ensemble. The Percussion Ensemble is being instructed by Mr. Anderson from JCHS. The rehearsals are held on Mondays from 3:30-4:30 in the LMS Band Room and are mandatory for all percussionists.

Jazz Band

The Jazz Band is open to members of the Concert or Symphonic Bands. Jazz Band takes place during the Spring Semester only and is supplemental to the Concert or Symphonic Bands. The Jazz Band will perform at Solo and Ensemble Festival and may have other performance opportunities throughout the semester.

2019-2020 Music Department Fees

Band Fee

Each band member will pay a fee of \$100.00 per year. Band fees go into a special school account and are used to pay for music, local busing, contest entrance fees, purchasing large instruments, and other band-related expenses. The band program receives no funding from the City of Madison or the State of Alabama.

If you have not paid your band fee, please do so immediately. Checks should be made payable to Liberty Middle School with a phone number and license number on it. Please give checks or money in an envelope to the front office or to the band director.

School Owned Band Instrument Fees

For the 2019-2020 school year an instrument usage fee of \$125.00 will be assessed for all wind players using an LMS instrument. School owned instruments include: Tuba, Baritone/Euphonium, French Horn, Bassoon, Oboe, Bass/Contra Clarinet, Tenor and Bari Saxophones and all Percussion. A \$25.00 yearly cleaning fee is due on May 1st. This fee may be paid with the rental fee for a total of \$150.00.

These monies will be used for routine maintenance, minor repairs, and (when necessary) replacement for school owned equipment. Any damage or major repair caused by student negligence will be the financial responsibility of the student to which the equipment is assigned.

Students using school owned instruments are encouraged to purchase a personal mouthpiece.

The Music Department Handbook

1. Students Responsibilities

- All Students must bring their required supplies to class everyday.
- All students must take their instrument home everyday.
- All students must practice for at least 30 minutes everyday. Practice should include warm-up, scales, assigned lines from the book and any additional music.
- All students must attend before or after school rehearsals when required.

****Before and after school rehearsals will be necessary as we prepare for contests and concerts. Dates and times will be posted at least two weeks in advance.****

- All Beginning and Concert Band students are required to prepare a solo for Solo and Ensemble.
- All Symphonic Band students are required to audition for Honor Band/All-State.
- All students are required to attend **all** scheduled rehearsals, concerts, and contests.

****We understand that emergencies happen. Please let the directors know as soon as possible when an emergency occurs. Emergency absences will be dealt with on an individual basis and students will be allowed to make up a missed commitment.****

2. Band Room Rules

- NO GUM EVER!
- NO FOOD OR DRINK ALLOWED IN THE BAND ROOM.
- Bring required equipment everyday.
- DO NOT talk during rehearsal unless called upon.
- DO NOT touch other student's instruments, do not play other students instruments, and do not trade instruments.
- Non-band students are not allowed in the band room.

3. Consequences

- Verbal Reprimand
- Private conference with director
- Call home to parents
- Detention
- Office Referral

4. Conduct/Behavior Standards for Events/Trips

It is a privilege to travel with the Band Program at Liberty Middle School. Band members are bound by a strict moral and behavioral code. This applies to behavior both in and out of school.

- Band members will conduct themselves in a manner that honorably represents their school, family, community, and themselves. Any behavior or infraction on the part of a band student, that goes against the Madison City Schools Code of Conduct, or the LMS Band Handbook, is subject to discipline from school administration as well as the band directors.
- When provided, a band student will ride to and from the band's events via school transportation/or chartered bus transportation. The student may be released only to his/her own parent/guardian. The exception to this is when written documentation from a band student's parent/guardian is provided, in advance, to the band directors giving permission for that student to be released into another parent/guardian's care.
- Drop-off and Pick-up times will be communicated to students and parents via email and/or notification on CHARMS. All students should be picked up by a parent or guardian within 15 minutes of the posted time. Any student who is not picked up by 30 minutes past the posted pick-up time may be removed from the next band event and/or other disciplinary action. Administration will be notified any time a student remains 30 minutes or more past the posted pick-up time.
- Guidelines may be established by the directors for event/competition attire. The band student must follow all established rules as outlined by the directors. Madison City Schools dress code applies to all events.

5. Penalties

- If a band student's grades fall below a 70% in any class, he/she will be placed on academic probation. Academic probation may include, but is not limited to, parent conference, suspension from an event, removal from a trip roster.
- Any band student who receives multiple (>2) assignments of detention, or an assignment of ISS (In School Suspension) may be subject to suspension from a band event or removal from a trip roster.
- A band student who receives multiple (>2) assignments of ISS, an assignment of Out-of-School suspension, or assignment to Alternative School may not be allowed to participate in further band events/travel outside the school building and/or outside of regular school hours.
- A band student who is left waiting for 30 minutes or more after the posted time of an event conclusion is subject to suspension from the subsequent event, or a future event, depending on the upcoming posted band calendar.
- A band student who misses a mandatory after school rehearsal WILL lose their chair placement in the ensemble. Students with excused absences may be able to regain their chair placement by making up missed rehearsal time with a band director (by appointment only). Unexcused absences will result in last chair or possible removal from the upcoming performance. *Missed performances result in a **zero** in the gradebook. (See 8. Performances for additional details.)

6. Equipment

- **All Students:** Instrument, Cleaning Supplies, Pencil, Folder, and Folding Stand
- **Required Method Books:**
 - Beginning Band (including percussion) Tradition of Excellence, Book 1, Red
 - Concert Band (including percussion) Tradition of Excellence, Book 2, Blue
 - Symphonic Band (including percussion) TBA - All State Required Method Book
- **Percussion Students only:** ALL percussionists must purchase a pair of standard snare drum sticks (Vic Firth Generals), and a set of medium yarn mallets.
- **Pep Band:** Flip folder and Lyre

7. Uniforms

All students must adhere to the district dress code during school hours and on field trips.

- **Symphonic Band Uniform:**
 - Men:** Tux shirt, vest, tux pants, black socks and black dress shoes.
 - Ladies:** Black uniform blouse, black uniform skirt, gold sash, black tights, black shoes.
- **Beginner and Concert Bands:**
 - Men:** LMS Band Polo, black slacks, black socks and black dress shoes.
(No Sneakers or Jeans!)
 - Ladies:** LMS Band Polo, black slacks or long skirt, black socks or hose, and black dress shoes. (No Sneakers or Jeans!)
- **Solo and Ensemble Dress:**
Nice Dress Attire (Sunday Best)
- **Pep Band:**
All Members will wear their Orange “Fun” Shirt, denim shorts/jeans, socks and sneakers
- **UNACCEPTABLE DRESS (Concert Performances)**
 1. NO jeans of any color- Not even black!
 2. NO tennis shoes, NO t-shirts

8. Performances

Performances are activities in which the Liberty Middle School Programs are visible to the public. Each performance is a reflection on the students’ abilities, and is also a reflection on our school. Every opportunity will be made to ensure high quality performance. Each performance will be graded as a participatory test grade. Each student is responsible for bringing his/her own instrument, music and any other materials needed for each performance. Students must wear assigned and complete performance attire for each performance.

All students are expected to participate in each scheduled performance for his/her band class. Absences will be excused on a case by case basis. Please inform Mrs. Rakoff and Mrs. Sims as soon as possible if a student must miss a scheduled performance. If an absence is excused, an alternate assignment will make up the grade for a missed performance. Unexcused absences from performances will result in a test grade of "0"

****Students who are Liberty athletes or who participate with other Liberty organizations may (upon approval) be excused for conflicting games, trips, or performances only. Practices, meetings, and rehearsals are not excuses for missed band performances.*

9. Grading and Assessment

Daily Grades (40% of overall grade)

- Participation and Responsibility
 - Evidence of nightly practice
 - Instrument and supplies
- Weekly playing quizzes
 - Scales
 - Assigned lines from book
 - Assigned excerpts from music
- Weekly written quizzes
 - Google Classroom quizzes
 - Worksheets

Test Grades (60% of overall grade)

- Playing Tests
 - Scales
 - Assigned lines from the book
 - Assigned excerpts from music
 - Separate audition material
- Written Tests
- Performances

Chair Placement

Chair placement may be determined by:

1. Weekly Playing tests
2. Random Challenges
3. Equipment Check
4. Behavior

****Students grades will be posted weekly on iNow****

Mrs. Rakoff

Mrs. Sims